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HOUSE OF COMMONS CHAMBRE DES COMMUNES OTTAWA. CANADA KIA OA6

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OTTAWA March 14, 1988

Mr Chris Brown 1102 - 258 Lisgar St Ottawa, On K2P OC9

Dear Mr Brown

Thank you for your recent letter concerning the problems faced by the environmentally sensitive and the difficulty you seem to be having in bringing this matter to the attention of some members of the New Democrat caucus.

While people with profound sensitivity to the environment around them may have been with us for a long time, it is only in recent years that the problem began to be appreciated. The medical and scientific communities are still struggling with the problems faced by the environmentally sensitive and the general public are largely unaware of the issue. For those whose lives are adversely affected by contact with any number of substances in the environment, the lack of understanding is especially frustrating.

My constituency office, which handles almost all of my case work, has been involved with a small number of people who are environmentally sensitive. My assistants in Prince Albert were successful in having a denial of benefits to a constituent suffering from hypersensitivity to the environment reversed by Health and Welfare some months ago. We are not always so successful. I can't of course speak about the case work of my colleagues, but I'm sure some of them have also had similar successes.

As you know, the policy side of this issue is of particular interest to my colleagues Margaret Mitchell and Lynn McDonald, NDP caucus spokespersons for Health and Welfare and Environment, respectively. I see in your letter that you have already been in touch with Margaret's

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office. I hope to be able to discuss this matter with Margaret in the near future.

Again, thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention.

Sincerely yours

Stan Hovdebo, MP

Prince Albert